



## Economic Issues

### Task: Economic Growth and Development

#### Activity 1: Listening

Welcome to a practice listening task for the GESE 11.

You are going to hear a talk about **economic growth and development among wealthier and less wealthy countries**. You will hear the talk twice. The first time, just listen. Then I'll ask you to tell me generally what the speaker is talking about. Are you ready?

#### Audio Script

When it comes to talking about observing the economic growth and development of countries, one can see that some countries are wealthier, in their economic standing, than others. If a person can see this for themselves, by travelling or living within the countries in question, it may well possibly be a jaw-dropping experience and can really open up one's perspective in how real people live in countries of totally different economic wealth.

First and foremost, a noted reason for less wealthy nations is income inequality. This is when income is distributed in an unequal way throughout the population. When taking a closer look at income inequality, surprisingly enough it can be shown through the disparity of incomes within different population segments. These segments would be gender, ethnicity, geographic location, occupation and historical income. Furthermore, it is notable that the most common types of income disparities are that among genders, males compared to females, and also the different ethnicities. This is all analysed by a variety of top sources that compare the income inequality, income disparity and income distributions, through providing regular studies over the matter. Last but not least, one of the ways and sources that different countries are able to be compared by studying their income inequality in a manner that is relatively quickly, is by using the Gini Index. It is a popular way that can compare inequalities universally across the world. It ranges from 0 to 100, with 100 showing a higher level of income inequality. In 2018, Malta rated at 28.7, Spain at 34.7 and the Philippines at 42.3, to give you an idea.

So to continue, if we take a look at wealthier nations, we are able to notice that there is often less population, higher industrial productivity and better technical knowledge. So it is safe to assume that the population as a whole have better paying jobs and less unemployment. Considering that point, in conjunction, it is seen that these countries are prone to have higher education levels, which in turn provides the highest possible level of efficiency in the workforce, and the employees are not only committed to their work, but also hard working individuals. Also, these countries have a better utilization of their natural resources, therefore depending less on outside resources, therefore having less outside interference. Many people must have observed how many eastern and African nations have been exposed to alien domination. On top of all this, wealthier nations show a stable government power and allow active participation of citizens to be able to raise questions within parliament, in order to make sure that the Government delivers to its citizens. On a final note, something that all wealthy countries have in common is that they have effective laws. By having effective laws,

they are able to make sure that everybody is moving forward in the same direction, to secure a prosperous future for their nation.

On the whole, part of the reason why some countries are wealthier than others may be in how the Governments in those countries view and treat their citizens. In wealthier countries, the elected officials try to keep the citizens pleased, since they are in their positions thanks to those very citizens. In less developed countries, the officials in power may have fallen into corruption and are looking out for their invested interest, which ultimately makes them ignore and neglect the needs of their citizens. If the lesser developed countries had realized this mistake earlier, they would be enjoying the benefits of prosperity as some wealthier countries do.

Can you tell me in one or two sentences what the speaker was talking about?

Now listen to the talk again. This time make some notes as you listen, if you want to. Then I'll ask you to tell me about the point of view of the speaker, problems that less developed countries have and reasons why other countries are wealthier.

Now tell me about the point of view of the speaker, problems that less developed countries have and reasons why other countries are wealthier. You have one minute to talk.

This is the end of the listening task.

**Answers:**

Point of View	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the Governments in those countries view and treat citizens / wealthier countries keep citizens pleased / less developed countries ignore and neglect citizens</li> </ul>
Cons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income inequality shows the disparity of incomes: gender, ethnicity, geographic location, occupation, historical income</li> <li>• Common types of income disparities: genders / males and females and different ethnicities</li> <li>• Analyses provided regularly by a variety of top sources: income inequality, income disparity, income distributions</li> <li>• The Gini Index is a popular way to compare income inequalities universally across the globe.</li> </ul>



Pros	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wealthier nations have less population, higher industrial productivity, better technical knowledge. / better paying jobs, less unemployment</li><li>• Higher education levels, efficient labor, committed and hardworking</li><li>• better utilization of natural resources, less outside interference</li><li>• stable government in power, active participation of citizen with questions raised in parliament to make sure the Government delivers</li><li>• Effective laws, everybody moving forward in the same direction</li></ul>
------	--

Marks: +\_ / +10